

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL
(AGIC)

The next Board meeting will be held in PHOENIX on Thursday, July 6, 1995.

CALL TO ORDER - The Executive Management Board of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) met on **Thursday, May 4, 1995** in the large conference room on the basement floor (B1) of the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) facility, located at 1600 W. Monroe, in Phoenix. The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Gene Trobia, Vice President of AGIC's Executive Management Board. Mr. Trobia explained that Chris English, President of the Board, was in Washington, D.C. on a business trip. He also pointed out that a quorum had not yet been established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Without a quorum, no official action could be taken, but Mr. Trobia asked whether there were any changes or comments that should be noted. None were mentioned.

BUDGET - Lynn Larson distributed budget summaries showing a balance of \$7,502 as of April 30, 1995. She said membership assessments were starting to come in and thanked those agencies that had already paid, especially those contributing more than the \$100 minimum.

STRATEGIC PLAN - Gary Irish was asked to provide an update on overall progress under AGIC's Strategic Plan. He said that the subcommittees were working on presentations summarizing accomplishments and updates relating to the goals, objectives, and strategies currently listed in the Strategic Plan. The intention is to have the Board review some of the drafts during its July meeting so that final versions can be completed before the MAGIC '95 conference. It is anticipated that the presentations will help to stimulate interaction during the conference.

Mr. Irish said AGIC got off to a good start and produced what appears to be one of the best strategic plans in the country, prompting accolades from many participants in the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). Now it is time to review the Plan again. AGIC will try to bring everything into focus during the next couple of months.

Administrative & Legal - Lynn Larson announced the signing of legislation to fund the State Cartographer's Office, which was originally conceived in 1988. The next step is to complete formal job descriptions and get the hiring process started. Primary responsibility for staffing the office resides with the State Land Department, but AGIC's Strategic Planning Committee will assist by conducting initial interviews and narrowing the list of potential candidates for State Cartographer. The person selected for this position will subsequently be involved in hiring individuals for the clerical and Assistant State Cartographer positions. Ms. Larson assured everyone that, although agencies are required to budget at the bottom of the pay scale for each position, higher starting salaries can be requested as long as they are within the specified ranges. She said it will probably be necessary to take advantage of this option for the State Cartographer, given the level of expertise required. Anyone interested in working in the State Cartographer's Office was instructed to submit a resume to State Personnel. Others were also encouraged to get involved. The outcome will have an impact on everyone in Arizona's GIS community.

Ms. Larson said briefings with budget and legislative staff members greatly aided the effort to obtain funding for the State Cartographer's Office. The presentation used was put together last year, incorporating sample applications from Pima County and other organizations, and is geared for those who have little knowledge of GIS. It dispels the notion that GIS is something boring and fosters appreciation for the technology as something people can actually use to help them in their jobs. Requests for GIS products and services have risen as a result of the briefings. In addition, state agencies may find it easier to gain approval of funds for future GIS projects and positions as budget staff become increasingly aware of the benefits of this technology. Ms. Larson said an effort will be made this summer to share the presentation with all remaining budget and legislative staff members. If time permits, the opportunity may be extended to other agencies as well.

Legislation to allow private/public partnerships for development and sale of GIS data did not fare as well. House Bill 2262 turned out to be more complex than anticipated and revealed considerable differences of opinion. Part of the bill would have facilitated cooperative efforts among governmental agencies. While creation of the Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS) seems to imply support for the concept of working cooperatively and sharing data, only sharing of joint

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL (AGIC)
Executive Management Board
Thursday, May 4, 1995

power is actually listed among the State's official policies. Consequently, any cooperative efforts between state agencies and other levels of government must be approved by the Attorney General and filed with the Secretary of State as intergovernmental agreements. The process is cumbersome and very time-consuming. House Bill 2262 would have provided a much-needed alternative, had it passed, but concerns about potential competition with the private sector overshadowed any benefits to be gained. Ms. Larson did note, however, that some legislative support was mustered during this legislative session; so perhaps a new measure can be introduced in the future if major differences can be resolved.

Data Resources - Gary Irish explained that the Data Resources subcommittee helps guide four thematic working groups. The Geodetic Control group is the farthest along. Although the chair has had significant schedule conflicts with his job, the group is about 50 percent finished with its report. The Hydrography group is also making progress. Having met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) coordinator for Reach File 3, Hydrography group members hope to finish their project, which involves creating a unique identification for each reach segment, sometime this summer. Meanwhile, the Parcels and Administrative Boundaries group has been meeting on a monthly basis, and formation of the Transportation working group remains a high priority for the subcommittee.

Education/Information Exchange - Sally Lanier again offered a combined report, covering the Education and Information Exchange subcommittees and the MAGIC '95 conference. She stressed the need for AGIC and the GIS community to support the event, both by attending and by submitting abstracts and ideas for presentations. Even individuals who prefer not to give their own presentations were encouraged to offer suggestions. If necessary, speakers can be recruited later, but it is important to gather as many ideas as possible so that organizers will have plenty of topics from which to choose. The greater the selection, the better the final product.

This year's conference is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, August 14 and 15 at Marriott's Camelback Inn. Organizers propose starting Monday morning, thereby allowing one half day extra to address AGIC's Strategic Plan. The conference will provide a look forward, through the Strategic Plan and technology. Attendees may also be given an opportunity to look back, through a historical display, which Gary Irish described as a miniature GIS museum. Everyone was invited to contact Gary Irish or Bill O'Sullivan-Kachel, at (602) 542-4061, regarding any items they would like to offer for this exhibit. Suggestions included old equipment and plot maps representing obsolete technologies.

Ms. Lanier indicated that a keynote speaker had not yet been selected. The jobs board, however, was said to be in good shape, and mailing of registration packets was expected to occur sometime in June. The hotel is charging attendees only \$55 plus tax (approximately \$61 total) per night but requests room registrations by July 20. Consequently, anyone interested in staying there was encouraged to register early and mention their affiliation with the conference.

Technology - Having acknowledged that no one was currently chairing the Technology subcommittee, Gene Trobia asked if anyone had further comments. Gary Irish reported that, although many people had expressed a willingness to serve on the subcommittee, no one seemed interested in serving as chair. Someone needs to step forward and assume responsibility for leading the group.

MAGIC '95 CONFERENCE - This topic was covered in conjunction with the Education and Information Exchange subcommittee report. No further details were provided at this point in the meeting.

NSGIC - Gary Irish explained that the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) holds annual meetings in various parts of the country for the purpose of encouraging effective government through coordination of efforts. The idea is that integrated efforts allow taxpayers to get the most development for the lowest cost. There are many things going on across the country, including research, education, and public relations activities. The various states involved are at different stages of development but are attempting to speak as a unified voice. Therefore, much of the discussion revolves around policies. NSGIC also conducted a member survey during the last annual meeting to help guide its efforts to provide services and meaning for its members.

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL (AGIC)
Executive Management Board
Thursday, May 4, 1995

Mr. Irish highlighted some key points in the handouts he distributed. Among them was an explanation of how NSGIC is arranged. He said many of the standing committees are functional, but the intergovernmental and policy committees are at the core of everything. NSGIC's most recent budget also reflects recognition of a need for administrative staff. The organization's administrative office is in New Hampshire.

NSGIC is participating with the federal government in defining the framework data set for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Mr. Irish noted that the 2000 census appears to be driving this project, which is moving along relatively quickly. The process is very complex and requires coordination of both federal and local activities. Enhancement of the TIGER files is currently underway. Federal and local governments are working together in this effort to integrate local data into the TIGER data set.

The framework data set is being designed to provide commonality among orthophotographic, elevation, public land survey, and other data sets. Last year, as part of its effort to include data from state and local sources, the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invited Rita Walton, of Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), and Gary Irish, of the Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS), to go to Washington, D.C. and give input.

Apparently having been asked to provide input on FGDC metadata implementation, NSGIC recently requested feedback from local GIS councils. AGIC's Data Resources subcommittee looked at the federal standard but did not submit any suggestions prior to the May Board meeting. Mr. Irish indicated that further evaluation will take place during the next year or so and that some facets will probably be addressed by software vendors.

NSGIC's response to the federal government on the federal framework working group report was pointed out as one of the more interesting documents distributed. The document indicates that there will be a continuing local presence. However, funding and maintenance of data will prove difficult for many states and localities. This may lead to an increased interest in cost recovery and concerns regarding the amount of data going into the public domain. Many intergovernmental negotiations will be required to resolve the underlying questions and issues.

NSGIC has also disseminated information on a clearinghouse system that would enable people to search for data no matter where it is in the country.

Gene Trobia and Seth Franzman were invited to share any additional comments. Mr. Franzman said one of the highlights for him was the roll call of states, which provides an excellent thumbnail sketch of what is going on in different states and allows you to gauge how your state stands in relation to other states. He found the rest of the program very informative as well. Mr. Franzman concluded that AGIC should continue to send the President or another officer of its Executive Management Board as a representative for Arizona and that someone with technical expertise, like Gary Irish, should be encouraged to accompany the AGIC representative to assimilate and relay technical information. As an added benefit, Mr. Irish's presence would help to maintain continuity.

Gene Trobia also emphasized the merit of having someone like Gary Irish attend as a technical expert. He said Arizona is definitely having an impact and, given some of the current situations being faced by different groups in Arizona, should continue to be involved in NSGIC. Mr. Trobia added that he had seen no other conference or group that allows states to get together the way NSGIC does.

Unable to entertain a motion on allocating funds and designating a representative from AGIC, Mr. Trobia opened the floor for questions and comments before concluding this segment.

STATE CARTOGRAPHER'S OFFICE - This item was covered as part of the Administrative and Legal subcommittee report. See the subcommittee report for details.

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL (AGIC)
Executive Management Board
Thursday, May 4, 1995

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS - Gene Trobia presented certificates of appointment to both Jonathan White and Lee Dexter and welcomed them to the Board.

Michael Collins distributed handouts regarding an AGIC-sponsored E-Mail-based list server, a new Internet-related service. Users will be able to submit and access information through E-Mail using this new service. Once your name is on the list, you get everything anyone sends to the server system. Approximately 30 people already subscribe to the list. Mr. Collins said the AGIC Newsletter is a good way to provide information to people, but it is only published quarterly. Consequently, the Internet provides an excellent way to communicate between issues. Special thanks were given to ALRIS and the State Land Department for allowing AGIC to use, and load the software on, their equipment and to Robert McArthur, of the University of Arizona, for loaning the software to AGIC. Anyone interested in subscribing to AGIC-L was advised to E-Mail the message "help" to *majordemo@lnd.state.az.us* for on-line instructions. Having done so, users may contact Mr. Collins by telephone or E-Mail for assistance with any further questions or problems.

Gene Trobia next read two letters from the office of Bruce Babbitt (U.S. Department of the Interior) and one from Vice President Al Gore, thanking Chris English for the GIS calendars he had sent them.

Recognizing that more people had arrived since the meeting started, Mr. Trobia took a final tally of Board members and substitutes. Finding the count one short of a quorum, he suggested that the next Board meeting, in July, be held at the same location and that everyone encourage those who were absent to attend. It will be very important to have a quorum at the July meeting so that the Board can take care of business relating to the upcoming conference and other issues, including NSGIC representation. Board members may also want to discuss whether to meet in September.

CALL TO PUBLIC - Linda Strock said changes in guidelines for subcounty projections have triggered a renewed interest in TIGER. Subcounty projections used to be done annually but are now to be done only once every five years. Some state agencies have indicated that this is not sufficient. The new executive order under which the Job Technical Advisor Committee operates contains language referring to annual updates. Therefore, the committee is studying the situation in an effort to find common ground and determine what schedule best meets data needs. Ms. Strock suggested that anyone interested in obtaining more information or getting involved contact her.

In the absence of further public comments, Gene Trobia reminded the Strategic Planning subcommittees that Action Plan updates are due by June 1 and that the updated situation assessments must be completed before the conference. He said Chris English apparently intends to begin the Strategic Planning session with short (10- to 15-minute) presentations, followed by a discussion period. This arrangement will provide a forum for gathering ideas and input. Sally Lanier cautioned that the Board might need to be somewhat flexible until plans are more firm, and Gary Irish suggested adding conference preparations as a separate agenda item for the July Board meeting.

Having heard that Arizona Department of Transportation had discontinued its county map program, Seth Franzman asked about other options. Lari Spire responded that Wide World of Maps is considering performing this function in the future.

NEXT MEETING - Mr. Trobia announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 6 at the same location (large conference room, basement, 1600 W. Monroe, Phoenix). The May Board meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.